

Anti- Hepatitis E Virus Antibody in Hemodialysis Patients

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Background & Objectives: Hepatitis E virus (HEV) is the causative agent for enteric non-A, non-B hepatitis. Transmission is mainly via the fecal-oral route but the possibility of an additional parenteric transmission has been raised. Patients undergoing chronic hemodialysis (HD) have an increased risk of exposure to blood transmitted agents. This study looks at the seroepidemiology of HEV infection in the hemodialysis patients in Jahrom.

Methods: This descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out on all (43 subjects), including 29 male and 14 female, referring to hemodialysis center of Jahrom, October of 2008. Patients' sera were tested for anti-HEV antibody by a specific solid- phase enzyme-linked immunoassay (Diapro, Italy).

Results: The overall seroprevalence of hepatitis E was 7.00% (95% CI: 8.1–10.8). No significant association was found between HEV seropositivity and age, sex and duration of hemodialysis.

Conclusion: Our investigation of HEV infection in the HD patients in Jahrom showed that the prevalence of anti-HEV was lower than the prevalence of anti-HEV in HD patients in other researches.

Keywords: Hepatitis E Virus; Haemodialysis; Antibody

